

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An adjustable length mold assembly for forming inflatable members having a variety of lengths, comprising:

a) a first mold piece having a first internal chamber defined at least in part by a first internal molding surface configured to form a first exterior surface of a first section of an inflatable member formed in the mold, ~~and~~

b) a second mold piece, at least in part slidably disposed within at least a portion of said first mold piece, having a second internal chamber defined at least in part by a second internal molding surface configured to form a second exterior surface of a second section of ~~[[an]]~~ the inflatable member formed in the mold, and

c) detachable extension shafts configured to operably connect the first mold piece and the second mold piece to a blow-molding machine.

2. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 1, wherein said second mold piece is movable effective to place at least a portion of the second mold piece in any of a plurality of positions within the first mold piece.

3. (currently amended) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 2, further comprising a positioner operably connected to said second mold piece effective to

move the second mold piece, effective to place at least a portion of the second mold piece in a desired position within the first mold piece.

4. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 3, wherein the positioner is effective to secure the second mold piece at a desired position.

5. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 3, wherein the positioner comprises a mechanism selected from the group consisting of a screw, a motor, a solenoid, a hydraulic chamber, a gear, and a sleeve.

6. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 4, wherein the positioner comprises a mechanism selected from the group consisting of a screw, a sleeve, a stop, a gear, a brake, a pin, a motor capable of maintaining a fixed position, and a clamp.

7. (currently amended) An adjustable length mold assembly for forming balloon portions of inflatable members, said balloon portions having a variety of lengths, comprising:

a) a first mold piece having a first internal chamber with a first internal molding surface adapted for molding a first section of a balloon portion of an inflatable member; ~~and~~

b) a second mold piece, at least in part slidably disposed within at least a portion of said first mold piece, having a second internal chamber with a second internal molding surface adapted for molding a second section of ~~[[a]]~~ the balloon portion

of [[an]] the inflatable member, said second internal molding surface complementing and completing the first internal molding surface; and

c) detachable extension shafts configured to operably connect the first mold piece and the second mold piece to a blow-molding machine.

8. (currently amended) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 7 wherein the second mold piece is movable effective to place at least a portion of the second mold piece in any of a plurality of positions within the first mold piece, effective to provide a variable length chamber having a length effective for forming an inflatable member with a balloon portion of a desired length.

9. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 8, further comprising a positioner effective to place at least a portion of the second mold piece in a desired position within the first mold piece.

10. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 9 wherein the positioner comprises a mechanism selected from a group consisting of a screw, a motor, a solenoid, a hydraulic chamber, a gear, and a sleeve.

11. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 8, further comprising a locking mechanism effective to secure the position of the second mold piece with respect to the first mold piece.

12. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 11, where the locking mechanism comprises a device selected from the group consisting of a screw, a

sleeve, a stop, a brake, a gear, a pin, a motor capable of maintaining a fixed position, and a clamp.

13. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 12, where the locking mechanism comprises a screw.

14. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 12, where the first internal chamber has a substantially circular cross-section.

15. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 1, where the first internal chamber has a lobed cross-sectional shape.

16-25. (cancel)

26. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 1, wherein said second mold piece comprises a second mold group comprising a second mold piece having an exterior surface configured to be slidably received by the first internal chamber of the first mold piece and a support configured to engage and hold said second mold piece.

27. (currently amended) An adjustable length mold assembly for forming elongated inflatable members, comprising:

a) a first mold piece having a first internal chamber with a lobed cross-sectional shape and with a first internal molding surface adapted for molding a working surface of a balloon portion of an inflatable member; and

b) a second mold piece, at least in part slidably disposed within at least a portion of the first mold piece, having a second internal chamber with a second internal molding surface adapted for molding a tapered end section of ~~[[a]]~~ the balloon portion of ~~[[an]]~~ the inflatable member.

28. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 27 wherein the second mold piece is secured with respect to the first mold piece to provide an inflatable member having a balloon portion of a desired length.

29. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 27, wherein said second mold piece is movable effective to place at least a portion of the second mold piece in any of a plurality of positions within the first mold piece.

30. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 29, further comprising a positioner operably connected to said second mold piece effective to place at least a portion of the second mold piece in a desired position within the first mold piece.

31. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 30 wherein the positioner comprises a mechanism selected from the group consisting of a screw, a motor, a solenoid, a hydraulic chamber, a gear, and a sleeve.

32. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 28, further comprising a locking mechanism effective to secure the position of the second mold piece with respect to the first mold piece.

33. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 32, where the locking mechanism comprises a device selected from the group consisting of a screw, a sleeve, a stop, a brake, a gear, a pin, a motor capable of maintaining a fixed position, and a clamp.

34-35. (cancel)

36. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 7, wherein said second mold piece comprises a second mold group comprising a second mold piece having an exterior surface configured to be slidably received by the first internal chamber of the first mold piece and a support configured to engage and hold said second mold piece.

37. (original) The adjustable length mold assembly of claim 29, wherein said second mold piece comprises a second mold group comprising a second mold piece having an exterior surface configured to be slidably received by the first internal chamber of the first mold piece and a support configured to engage and hold said second mold piece.